



Welcome To The

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BY MARK BOURBEAU





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The year is 1980 and the snow mobiling industry is gazed by a revolution to the coolution in sled design since its invention some 20 separated in A new chassis design with independent front suspension and longer travel rear suspension and sold spring front suspension and very limited travel—a we decome update that changes the conjection of the sport drawel—a we decome update that changes the complexion of the sport dragnariability.

Now, 24 years later, it's déjà vu when once again a revolution to the evolution is brought to the table, the 2004 Ski-Doo Rev.

Even though we have seen the Rev

in rate trim for a couple of years, and there was the My-Z Rev and a lare release Stummit Rev last year. I conside 2004 the gear of the Rev. Obviously, this is the direction Bombardier has chosen... particularly when three out of few medel lines for 2004 are being built on the Rev platform. And those three models have a total of 13 variations. With the numerous specific model and motor combon, bugging your desired ultimate setup is pretry much a given.

Whar's so special about the new Ski-Doo Rev. you ask? After six years of R&D, and millions of greenbacks spent on four hand-built prototypes. this baby is oozing with technology and innovation.

From The Beginning

It all starts with a radically designed Pyramidal frame that was heavily influenced by motorcycle and radical period of the production of the production, this new chassis is a double bonus. Not only is it lighter than any previous chassis. the torsional rigidity has set a new standard in the industry. The power plant is not attached to the floor of the bulkhead, This policy large and production of the bulkhead, This not only increases chasely the production of the bulkhead of this not only increases chasely and the production of the bulkhead. This not only increases chasely the production of the bulkhead of this not only increases chasely the production of the productio



(opposite page) You won't believe how easy it is to pull the Rev up to sidebill or slice through the powder. The sled is narrow, which helps, but it's also lightweight and its ergonomics make it a snap to sidebill. The 16-inch wide track helps. too.

We think one of the best features on the Summit Rev is the Mountain Skis. These skis offer positive steering on the trail, help the Rev hug a hillside and improve its turning in the powder.

sis rigidity, it ensures perfect motor alignment.

The Rev runnels and bulkheads are stamped out of stronger and thicker 2mm aluminum, eliminating the need for additional reinforcement and brackets. Also there are virtually no steel parts on this frame and all elements are either bolted or riveted, not welded together.

This modular design not only simplifies manufacturing, it makes repairs easier as bulkhead and frame components can be replaced as individual units. Even though the Summit sports a one-inch wider track than the other models. Bombardier was able to use the same width tunnel on all Revs. This chassis also has an increase in the rolled positioning of the drive axle to accommodate 10-rooth drivers, enhancing drivetrain performance.

The most outstanding feature is the mass centralization concept with a more forward driver position very similar to motocross bikes, street bikes and ATVs. Steering linkage being ove

the engine facilitates the new riding position and the more central engine positioning, placing 80 percent of the machine mass (including rider weight) surrounding the drive axle compared to the ZX platform. The engine has been moved back 2.6 inches and lowered 1.25 inches with rider position being moved 12 inches forward and one inch higher on the MX-Z and

nearly that much on the Summit.

Saddle IIn

Putting the rider in a more effective ergonomic position makes the Rev easier to maneuver while boundocking and better isolates the rider from the bumps on the trail. The Summit is an incredible experience with dramatically improved handling and responsiveness. Less rider input to get the Rev to do what you want equates to less driver fatigue and a ton-o-fun. The new hip above knee placement also makes the transition from sit to standup tiding a lot easier, once again resulting in less fatigue and more fun.

If there is a drawback with the rider position on the Summit, it is coming down steep powder hills. This can be a bit humbling after just chewing it up and spitting it out on the way up. especially if there is a brench of fourfoot deep trenches from some maniacs trying to get where you just were. The nose of the Rey tends to want to dive instead of float. I feel the smaller rounded belly pan design attributes to this characteristic probably as much as the rider position.

A new chassis deserves a new from suspension and Response Angle Suspension (RAS) is it. This computer designed A-Arm front-end loves bumps and it doesn't matter what size or how close together. RAS moves at a 10-degree backward motion as it is being compressed through its downward travel, better dispersing forces to the shocks, springs and chassis, while at the same time, eliminating that dreaded "bump steer" syndrome.

I thought the steering on the protos felt very precise, maybe even a bit



Lubrication

Carburetion

Drive clutch

Driven clutch

Front chassis

Rear chassis

Front suspension

Rear suspension

Travel

Fuel capacity

Estimated dry we

Ski stance

Travel

Track

Brakes

Length

Width

Cooling

lanition

Exhaust

much as it seemed a little heavy or aggressive in certain situations. Pair-up the RAS with the SC-10 rear suspension that is just as capable at eating bumps and you get an incredible ride. If you thrive on aggressive bumps riding, the Rev just begs you to turn up the wick as you sail through the rough. The Rev delivers a very athletic ride regardless of track length or model configuration.

Looks With Attitude

The styling of the Rev makes a bold statement in itself.

Since the Rev was designed to ride and handle like nothing eise, then it had to look like nothing else. Bombardier engineers used a new edge design with several new concepts to the snowmobile industry, taking cues from the automobile industry like its instrumentation and electronic gauges all the way up to its wind-runnel rested shape, aerodynamically balancing rider wind protection, stability at speed and top end speed.

The unified look has the hood. belly pan, instrument pod, seat and snow flap all part of the same design.

The sharp edges or lines that start on the hood continue through the seat. with most ending at a perspective point above the package by 20 percent in comparison to the ZX platform. (Under hood tuning and servicing is easier than ever with side panels that swing open or can be completely removed without any tools.) The overall design spares nothing with fit and finish that are unparalleled due to advances in computer design and quality materials.

The Rev also sports nifty little integtated features like a breakaway windshield, a headlamp height adjuster (a small knob under a side panel), an

overflow fuel tank design with threeliter cushion allowing for expansion, tiple functions, saving on complexity and weight.

Oll injected

2 TM40 DPM

Single funed p

DC mapped digital lanition

ilquid

TRA III

HPV VSA

Aluminum

Aluminum

9 inches

14 inches

40-42.5 inche

Mountain Ski

SC-10 151 Inch

16x151x2 inch

Hydraulic disc

10.6 gallons

126.6 Inches

44.8 inches

493 fbs.

R.A.S. A-arm with s

and many structural parts serving mul-

Last but not least. I have to brag about the track on the Summit. Once again Ski-Doo bucks an industry trend with the Pontiac concept that "wider is better." This was a very elever idea Mountain sleds with longer tracks are getting so long that they are becoming a hindrance, whether it is storage, trailering or riding. The Revs 16- by 144inch paddle wheel is within a gnar's ass of offering the same footprint and floatation of the competitions 15- by 151-inch track. The wider and shorter track is definitely more maneuverable on and off trail than the narrower and longer tracks.

Gone To Heaven

I encountered a personal experience last spring that not only sold me on this new track idea, but also demonstrated to me the durability of the Rev. structurally and mechanically.

I tagged up with a bunch of hooligans to go into the South Fork, CO. There is no doubt that we were in a snowmobiler's heaven when we got to timberline. But there was a 15-mile hellhole we had to go through to get there. I've been riding for 30-plus years and this was the most "tree bashing, creek crossing, log crawling, rock riding, stump jumping and snow slide skirting" I'd ever subjected myself to in one day.

We were no more than about a mile into paradise when we had a pony lay down on us. Usually these guys leave the sled and return with what it takes to fix the sled rather than trying to pull it out. But on this ride the decision was made to try and get this one ont as far as possible.

If you have ever experienced pulling a dead sled out of the mountains, you know how taxing it is on the pulling machine. Sizzling clutches and blown drive helts, over-hearing engines. ripped off rear bumpers and bent tunnels can be immediate side effects to the pulling machine. However, Tod. Perdue and his 2003 Rev was up for the challenge, guaranteeing the group that he would get it all the way out. I said "no way."

Later that day we were back at the pick-ups with the dead sled and several impressed snowmobilers. It was the first time in my experience riding this country that a dead sled was towed out with only one tow vehicle the entire way. While there was some savvy rid-

The Ski-Doo Rev is definitely a confidence-inspiring piece. whether you're a trail rider, mogul masher, boondocker or tow-truck driver.

I know it sounds like Lam exaggerating when I describe its characteristics, but it's no flash in the pan. The Rev is for real. *

The front suspension, built around the Response Angle Suspension, features A-arms and mation control shocks. This suspension was tested on the snocross track for a couple of years before making its way to the consumers. Consider it time well spent on the track.